

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 HA-05 MCT-01
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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6897
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRAKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS USBERLIN 1239

E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, AKB, BQG
SUBJECT: TRIAL OF 2 JUNE MOVEMENT TERRORISTS: SIXTH
AND SEVENTH WEEKS

REF: USBERLIN 1141

SUMMARY: DILATORY DEBATES AND DISRUPTIONS CONTINUE. THE ACTUAL
TRIAL HAS NOT YET BEGUN SINCE THE INDICTMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN
READ OUT. FREEING OF DEFENDANT TILL MEYER BY ARMED TERRORISTS
REPORTED SEPTEL. END SUMMARY.

1. IN PREVIOUS SESSIONS, THE COURT HAD REJECTED A MOTION FILED
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BY DEFENSE COUNSEL BECKER THAT JUDGE WEISS BE EXCLUDED ON GROUNDS
OF BEING BIASED. AT THE 10TH SESSION ON 17 MAY THE DEFENSE
COUNSLES OF ALL SIX ACCUSED FILED IDENTICAL MOTIONS. ACCORDING
TO THEM, WEISS, IN ADDITION TO CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACQUITTAL
OF NAZI-JUDGE REHSE, WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ERRON-
EOUS JUDGMENT AGAINST FORMER (TERRORIST) LAWYER HORST
MAHLER INASMUCH AS MAHLER WAS FOUND GUILTY OF HAVING

COMMITTED BANK ROBBERY. DEFENSE COUNSEL WIELAND EXPLAINED THAT THEREFORE IT WAS TO BE EXPECTED THAT JUDGE WEISS WOULD CONTRIBUTE A "THIRD SIGNIFICANT MISJUDGMENT." THE FEDERAL PROSECUTOR ARGUED THAT THE MOTION WAS NOT ADMISSIBLE AND THAT ITS ONLY PURPOSE WAS TO IMPEDE THE TRIAL. THE ACCUSED FRITZSCH, REINDERS AND KLOEPPER STATED THAT THEY DID NOT EXPECT THE MOTION TO BE SUCCESSFUL. THEY ADDED THAT THEIR FIGHT WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST INDIVIDUAL JUDGES LIKE WEISS OR THE PRESIDING JUDGE BUT AGAINST THE ENTIRE JUDICIARY AS THE INSTRUMENT OF THOSE IN POWER. AFTER ABOUT TWO HOURS THE PRESIDING JUDGE ADJOURNED THE SESSION TO TUESDAY, MAY 23. DECISION ON THE MOTION WAS POSTPONED.

2. THE 11TH SESSION (23 MAY) OF THE TRIAL WAS MARKED BY THE SCANDALOUS BEHAVIOR OF THE ACCUSED, SOME OF THEIR LAWYERS AND PART OF THE AUDIENCE WHO ALTOGETHER STARTED TO YELL AND SHOUT WHEN THE FEDERAL PROSECUTOR BEGAN TO READ OUT THE INDICTMENT. HE WAS UNABLE TO PROCEED, AND THE TRIAL WAS ADJOURNED TO MAY 24. HOWEVER, EVEN AT THE 12TH SESSION (24 MAY) OF THE TRIAL THE FEDERAL PROSECUTOR WAS NOT ABLE TO FINISH READING OUT THE INDICTMENT BECAUSE IN THE MEANTIME THE LAWYERS HAD FILED NEW MOTIONS ASKING FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF THE TRIAL. THESE MOTIONS WERE BASED ON AN INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED A YEAR AGO WHEN POLICE OFFICERS HAD TRIED TO BRING THE

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ACCUSED BEFORE WITNESSES FOR THE PURPOSE OF IDENTIFICATION. WHEN DOING SO THE POLICE OFFICERS HAD USED SO-CALLED "KNEBELKETTEN" (A KIND OF COME-ALONG DEVICE). THE DEFENSE COUNSELS IN THEIR MOTIONS ARGUED THAT AFTER SUCH BEHAVIOR, A FAIR TRIAL WOULD NO LONGER BE POSSIBLE. DECISION ON THE MOTION WAS POSTPONED.

3. FURTHER DETAILS ON FREEING OF ACCUSED TILL MEYER REPORTED SEPTTEL. GEORGE

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